

Scales short, rounded behind, with two apical pits, faintly keeled on the back, in 21 rows. Ventrals rounded, 213; anal divided; subcaudals 114. Green above, white beneath; upper lip white.

Total length 255 millim.; tail 70.

A single young specimen from Colonia Benitez, Chaco.

This species is nearer to *P. astivus*, Schleg., than to any other, but is easily distinguished from it by the blunter snout and the shorter, indistinctly keeled scales.

#### XLVIII.—*Description of a new Barbus from Natal.*

By G. A. BOULENGER, F.R.S.

Two species have been confounded in the original description of *Barbus Gurneyi*, Günther, Cat. Fish. vii. p. 102. The character of the small eye "*its diameter being one-fifth of the length of the head in specimens only  $3\frac{1}{2}$  inches long,*" having been specially emphasized by the describer, it seems to me the proper course to restrict the name chosen by him to the smaller specimens, and to propose a new name for the larger ones which were believed to represent the adult condition. In doing this I have great pleasure in connecting the name of Col. Bowker with the fish of which he presented a young individual to the British Museum a few years ago, as it is through this that I was first able to detect the error which is here corrected.

#### *Barbus Bowkeri.*

Depth of body nearly equal to length of head,  $3\frac{3}{4}$  to  $4\frac{1}{4}$  times in total length. Snout rounded, about  $\frac{1}{3}$  length of head; diameter of eye  $4\frac{1}{2}$  (half-grown specimen) to  $5\frac{1}{2}$  times in length of head,  $1\frac{1}{3}$  to twice in interocular width; width of mouth more than half that of head; lips thick; two pairs of barbels, the posterior a little longer than the anterior and as long as or slightly longer than the eye. Dorsal III 8-9, equally distant from occiput and root of caudal, its border slightly concave; third ray feeble, smooth; longest ray  $\frac{3}{2}$  to  $\frac{3}{2}$  length of head. Anal II 5; longest ray  $\frac{3}{2}$  to  $\frac{3}{4}$  length of head, reaching or nearly reaching root of caudal. Pectoral  $\frac{3}{4}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  length of head, not reaching the ventral, which is inserted under the first rays of the dorsal. Caudal forked. Caudal peduncle  $1\frac{1}{2}$  to  $1\frac{2}{3}$  as long as deep. Scales 33-36  $\frac{5\frac{1}{2}-6\frac{1}{2}}{5\frac{1}{2}}$ ,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  between lateral line and root of caudal. Olive-brown above, silvery beneath.

Five specimens, measuring 195 to 255 millim., from "Port Natal," collected by Mr. Ayres, form part of the types of Günther's *B. Gurneyi*. A specimen, 115 millim. long, from Durban, was presented to the British Museum by Col. Bowker. Two specimens from Port Natal, measuring 150 millim., are also in the Museum and have been referred to *B. marequensis*, Smith, in which the barbels are much longer than the eye, the third ray of the dorsal fin is stronger, more ossified, and 3 series of scales intervene between the lateral line and the ventral fin. *B. Gurneyi*, as now restricted, differs abundantly from *B. Bowkeri* in having a shorter body, a shorter snout, thinner lips, the posterior barbel much longer than the eye, 7 branched rays in the dorsal fin, a much shorter anal, and 31 to 33 scales in the lateral line.

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XLIX.—*The Generic Term "Dama."*

By P. L. SCLATER, F.R.S.

IN an article on Zimmermann's 'Specimen Zoologiæ Geographicae' and 'Geographische Geschichte,' lately published in the 'Bulletin of the American Museum of Natural History' (xvi. pp. 13-22), Dr. Allen has suggested that we ought to use the name "*Dama*" for the American group of deer typified by *Cervus virginianus*. If this is the case, the great inconvenience would ensue that we should have to give up the use of the term "*Dama*" for the Fallow Deer of Europe, to which it has been applied ever since the days of Virgil and Pliny, not to speak of all the systematic writers since Linnæus. I venture, however, to state my opinion that this disagreeable course is not necessary, nor, indeed, advisable. After reading all that Dr. Allen has written upon the subject and studying Zimmermann's 'Specimen Zoologiæ Geographicae,' I have come to the conclusion that that author had no intention whatever of putting forward the word "*Dama*" as a generic term, and that we should not be justified in attributing to him an intention which he undoubtedly never entertained.

In the systematic part of his 'Specimen' Zimmermann arrives (p. 527) at the order Pecora, which he divides into seven genera—*Camelus*, *Moschus*, *Cervus*, *Antilope*, *Capra*, *Ovis*, and *Bos*. Under each of these genera Zimmermann places a certain number of species with which he was acquainted. Under the head of the genus *Cervus* he ranges eleven species, the seventh of which he calls, it is true, "*Dama virginiana*." At the same time it is quite evident